



THE ROBERT DRAKE PRIMARY SCHOOL

NEWSLETTER

DECEMBER 2017

FUND-RAISING NEWS

Christmas Raffle Tickets

Raffle tickets have been circulated to all pupils. Prizes include a Christmas Food and Drink hamper (donated by a Grandparent), a Meal for Two (donated by Wheelers Tandoori) and a Family Ticket to Marsh Farm (donated by The Partyman Company Ltd).

If you require more tickets then please ask at reception. The draw will be held on **Wednesday 13th December.**

Christmas Bazaar

This year's Christmas Bazaar will be held on **Friday 8th December**, in the afternoon, for Mr Smith and Mrs Rawling's classes and on **Monday 11th December** for EYFS to Year 5. Further details have been circulated.

In the meantime, if anybody is able to help on the day please contact the school office or one of the fundraisers as soon as possible. Additionally, any donations of wrapping paper, bows, sellotape and tape dispensers etc. will be gratefully

CHAIRMAN OF GOVERNORS

Please note that as from the autumn term Mr Stephen Ashley is Chairman of the Governing Body. Mrs Challis has decided to step down from this role but will remain on the Governing Body.

We would like to thank her for all of her hard work as Chair of Governors in recent years.

UNAUTHORISED ABSENCES

We would like to remind all parents and carers that the law does not give any entitlement to parents to remove their child from school during term-time for the purpose of a holiday. Headteachers may only grant leave of absence where an application has been made in advance and the headteacher considers that there are exceptional circumstances relating to the application. At this school all individual applications are considered by the Governing Body.

If an application is not authorised and the holiday is taken this will be recorded in the register as unauthorised. If the period of unauthorised absence is taken and it is for **5 consecutive days (10 sessions) or more** then we are duty bound to refer the case to the Missing in Education and Child Employment Service.

The Missing in Education and Child Employment Service may issue a penalty notice to each of the parents of £60 for each child, to be paid in 28 days. If this penalty notice is not paid within this timescale it increases to £120. If this is not paid the Missing in Education and Child Employment Service will then instigate legal proceedings against you in the magistrates court, under the Education Act 1996 for failing to ensure your child attends school regularly.

PENALTY NOTICES

Please be aware that several Penalty Notices have already been issued to parents and carers of children at the school this term.

ATTENDANCE POLICY

We have circulated the Attendance Policy to all parents and carers. Please make sure you read it.

CHRISTMAS POST BOXES

Christmas cards can be posted in the post boxes placed in reception and the junior corridor. EYFS have their own box in the corridor outside their classroom. Cards

received! Please leave at the school office.

GOVERNOR NEWS

Attendance

The attendance for November was 98.0%.

will be given out on the last day of term. Please make sure that the envelopes are clearly marked with the **full name and class teacher** of the recipient. Thank you.

GEORGE ATKINS—GYMNASTICS SUCCESS

We would like to congratulate George (Year 5) for his tremendous gymnastic success in becoming national champion.

The national event was held at Birmingham's GMAC Centre, where George excelled in all eight of his routines, including the high bars, the parallel bars, floor, rings and vault.

George is trained by Anthony Wise (pictured below) at South Essex Gymnastics Club in Basildon, where he regularly sees double Olympic Champion Max Whitlock.

Well done George, we are all very proud of you.



EARLY YEARS FOUNDATION STAGE APPLICATIONS - SEPTEMBER 2017

If you have a child who is due to start school next September please remember that your application needs to be sent to Essex County Council Planning and Admissions by **15th January 2018**. It is essential that the application is submitted by this date otherwise it will be treated as a late application.

DODGEBALL TOURNAMENT

A team from Robert Drake participated in a mixed dodgeball tournament on **Tuesday 14th November** at The Deanes School. This was a highly competitive event where 10 pupils from Y5-6 were chosen by Mr Hunter to take part based on their ability and behaviour. Pupils behaved impeccably and represented the school well. They were excellent sportsmen, despite not making it through to the semi-finals.

COATS

As the weather is changeable at present please ensure that your child brings their coat to school every day. Thank you.

FOOTBALL

The team played an away match at Kingston Primary School on **Monday 27th November**. Several players were representing the school for the first time and although they lost 4-1 they worked very hard together as a team .

CHILDREN IN NEED - NOVEMBER 2017

The School Council arranged a special day on **Friday 17th November** to support Children in Need, raising the fantastic total of **£381.65**.

Thank you to everybody who contributed to Children in Need and well done to members of the School Council for organising this successful event.

YEARS 5 & 6 PERFORMANCE - ALICE IN WONDERLAND

Congratulations to all of the children in Year 5 and 6 for their wonderful performances in Alice in Wonderland.



CHRISTMAS PERFORMANCE DATES

Children in Years 3 and 4 will be taking part in a carol concert at St Peter's Church on **Thursday 14th December** at 2.00 pm.

Children in Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS) will be performing their Christmas show on **Tuesday 12th December**.

Years 1 and 2 (KS1) will be taking part in their Christmas performances on **Wednesday 6th December** and **Friday 8th December**, both at 9.15 am.

Further details have been circulated.

WINTER GAMES

On **Tuesday 28th November** Mrs Jackson's class enjoyed Winter Games at The Deanes School. The children enjoyed developing their racquet skills by balancing a shuttle cock on a racquet and hitting it to a partner. They were also able to work on their throwing and catching skills by bouncing and throwing a ball to a partner. They also enjoyed throwing and catching rugby balls to their partners and team relay games.



DARE TO BELIEVE FESTIVAL – FRIDAY 1ST DECEMBER

On **Friday 1st December**, Year 3 pupils in Miss Maloney's class attended the Dare to Believe Festival at The Deanes School. This event was promoting Paralympic sporting activities, and the children even got to meet a professional tennis player! It was a fantastic event, and the pupils collaborated really well, not only with one another, but with children from other schools too. One child even said, 'it was amazing, I loved doing the Paralympic sports!' A great afternoon was had by all!



CHRISTMAS DINNER

Christmas dinner this year is on *Friday 15th December*. Details about price and menu will be sent out shortly.

CHRISTMAS JUMPER DAY

The school will be supporting the Save the Children by taking part in Christmas Jumper Day on **Friday 15th December**.

Children should wear their usual school uniform but their school jumper may be replaced with a Christmas jumper. It would be advisable for the children to wear a plain white t-shirt or school shirt under their jumper as they may become hot in the school building.

We realise that this is an expensive time of year therefore we do not expect you to buy a jumper for your child; children are more than welcome to come in a jumper they have decorated themselves!

Any donation, however small, will be gratefully received. Obviously it is not compulsory for children to take part but we would encourage as many as possible to participate in order to raise money for this worthwhile cause.

FINALLY

We would like to take this opportunity to wish you all a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

School closes for the Christmas holidays on **Wednesday 20th December** at 3.15 pm and re-opens on **Wednesday 3rd January 2018** at 8.40 am.